REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been presented for examination. By the Office Action dated 9 September 2004, Claims 1-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ismael (US 6,134,581). Claims 3-5, 7-10, 12-16, 19-24 remain unchanged and Claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 17, 18 have been previously amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-24 are therefore still pending. Given the reasons set forth below, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 11 and 17

In response to the final rejection of Claims 1, 11 and 17 in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully but strongly submits that the cited document, Ismael, does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention.

For example, Applicant's amended Claim 1 recites a network management system for a computer network comprising a first computer system having a network management master-agent process unit installed therein and a plurality of second computer systems, wherein a network management sub-agent process is installed on each of the second computer systems and wherein the second computer systems are different from the first computer system (see description on page 15, lines 32-34 and page 16 line 33 to page 17 line 7) and wherein each sub-agent process manages at least one managed object (see, for example, page 20 lines 21-29). The network management master-agent process unit comprises a first interface being adapted to communicate with a network management software module using a network management protocol format, a second interface being adapted to communicate with the sub-agent processes using an object-oriented interface description language format and a converting unit for converting the network management protocol format to the object-oriented interface description language format and vice versa.

Ismael discloses a generic management framework for a network management system. Management information is modeled as management beans (m-beans), i.e. managed

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objects. An m-bean is a software abstraction of a resource that is controlled and monitored. The framework further comprises network adaptors (network adaptor servers) which allow access to the managed objects from outside the framework using various network communication protocols.

Specifically, in Fig. 1 of Ismael, a management station 6 and managed stations 4, 5 are shown (col 4, 48-50). The management station executes management applications (col 5, 9-13). The managed stations implement agents (this should obviously be 20) which are responsive to requests from the management applications, i.e., from the management station 6 (col.5, 14-20).

Additionally, Fig. 3 of Ismael shows an agent (this becomes clear from the reference sign 20 and from col. 6, 30-36) and (cf. col. 6, 30-36) the relationship between the agent 20 and the management applications (obviously the ones executed by the management station 6). The management applications should obviously be 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 in fig.3.

It should be noted that the management applications 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 are not network management sub-agent processes in the sense of the present invention. This becomes clear from the fact that a sub-agent process in the sense of the present invention, as recited in amended claim 1, "manages at least one managed object". The management applications 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 in Ismael only allow remote access to the framework 24, which actually manages the managed objects (via the m-beans). This can be clearly seen from figs. 3, 5 and 7.

As shown in Fig. 3, the agent 20 comprises a plurality of adaptors 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 (i.e. converting units) for converting the protocols used by the management applications (col. 8, 26-33) to provide access to the m-beans (i.e. managed objects, denoted by 29).

As can be seen in Fig. 3, the adaptors are a part of the agent 20. Consequently, there is no central converter (adaptor) in Ismael. The converters (adaptors) are always implemented on the same machine as the managed objects they convert protocols for.

In contrast to Ismael, claim 1 recites "...a first computer system having a network management master-agent process unit installed therein, a plurality of second computer

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systems, wherein a network management sub-agent process is installed on each of the second computer systems and wherein the second computer systems are different from the first computer system, the network management master-agent process unit having a first interface being adapted to communicate with a network management software module using a network management protocol format, a second interface being adapted to communicate with the network management sub-agent processes using an object-oriented interface description language format and being connected between the first computer system and the plurality of second computer systems..." (Emphasis added). Consequently, the present invention provides a central converting unit (the network master-agent process unit installed on the first computer system) for converting the network management protocol format into the object-oriented interface description language format on a plurality of second computer systems.

This means that according to the present invention, only one converting unit has to be provided for a plurality of managed computer systems. By consequence, the advantages offered by a converting unit which are heightened by using an object-oriented interface description language format can be provided with minor requirements concerning memory and computational resources compared to the case when a framework according to Ismael is installed on each managed computer system. Additionally, since on a managed computer system no converting unit needs to be provided at all, no additional computational resources and memory are necessary on the managed computer systems.

Again, in Ismael, the managed objects and the converting units (managed object adaptor servers) are part of the framework and are hence installed in the same computer system, for example they are realized by one Java virtual machine (see Ismael col 6, lines 36-42). In particular, it is not taught or suggested by Ismael that the managed objects can be implemented using a different computer system than the computer system used for implementing the managed object adaptor servers, since the managed objects and the managed object adaptor servers are part of the same framework.

Applicant therefore asserts that since claim 1 recites "...a first computer system having a network management master-agent process unit installed therein, a plurality of second computer systems, wherein a network management sub-agent process is installed on each of the second computer systems and wherein the second computer systems are different

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from the first computer system..." and Ismael does not teach or suggest that managed objects can be implemented using a different computer system than the computer system used for implementing the managed object adaptor servers, Claim 1 is not anticipated by the Ismael reference. Consequently, Claim 1 is allowable over the Ismael reference. Additionally, since the same rejection applies to Claims 11 and 17, the same argument applies thereto. Accordingly, Claims 11 and 17 are also allowable over the Ismael reference.

In the final rejection, the Examiner states that the Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references. The Examiner further states that the Applicant's arguments do not comply with 37 CFR 1.111(c) because they do not clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. Further, they do not show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. Applicant asserts that the arguments articulated above more clearly point out the patentable novelty that the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references.
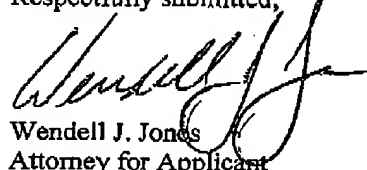
Accordingly, dependent Claims 2-10, 12-16, and 18-24 should also be allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Ismael since they are dependent on amended Claim 1, amended Claim 11 and amended Claim 17, respectively.

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In view of the discussions set forth herein, it is respectfully submitted that the grounds for the Examiner's rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-24 should be found to be in condition for allowance.

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